

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A column unit, comprising:
 - 2 a fixed upright tube having a bottom upright-tube end and a top upright-tube
 - 3 end;
 - 4 a telescopic tube axially displaceably guided in said upright tube for moving
 - 5 between a fully inserted position to a maximally withdrawn position;
 - 6 a pneumatic spring having a cylinder and a piston rod, said cylinder being
 - 7 axially displaceably guided in said telescopic tube, said piston rod having a free end
 - 8 projecting out of said cylinder and fastened to said upright tube proximate said bottom
 - 9 upright-tube end, said cylinder having a carry-along stop for carrying the telescopic tube
 - 10 out of said upright tube when said pneumatic spring is moved axially; and
 - 11 a securing element arranged on said upright tube for limiting an axial
 - 12 movement of said telescopic tube out of said upright tube, said securing element being
 - 13 urged resiliently radially inward such that said securing element abuts an outer
 - 14 cylindrical lateral surface of said telescopic tube, wherein a latching recess is defined on
 - 15 said outer cylindrical lateral surface of said telescopic tube, said securing element being
 - 16 latchable in said latching recess when said telescopic tube is withdrawn from said
 - 17 upright tube to said maximally withdrawn position to thereby prevent further withdrawal
 - 18 of said telescopic tube from said upright tube.
- 1 2. The column unit of claim 1, wherein said latching recess is arranged in
- 2 an end region of said telescopic tube directed towards said bottom upright-tube end.

1 3. The column unit of claim 1, wherein a securing recess is arranged in said
2 upright tube, said recess being open toward said telescopic tube, wherein said securing
3 element is arranged in said securing recess.

1 4. The column unit of claim 1, further comprising a guide bushing firmly
2 inserted in said upright tube, said telescopic tube being axially displaceably guided in
3 said guide bushing.

1 5. The column unit of claim 4, wherein a securing recess is arranged in said
2 guide bushing of said upright tube, said recess being open toward said telescopic tube,
3 wherein said securing element is arranged in said securing recess.

1 6. The column unit of claim 3, wherein the radial depth of said securing
2 recess in said upright tube corresponds approximately to a radial extent of said securing
3 element.

1 7. The column unit of claim 3, wherein said securing recess of said upright
2 tube comprises a securing bead having an annular encircling groove.

1 8. The column unit of claim 7, wherein said securing bead has an
2 asymmetric cross section.

1 9. The column unit of claim 8, wherein said securing bead has a radially
2 inner bead base, a first side wall which is closer to the top upright-tube end, and second
3 a side wall which is further away from the top upright-tube end, said first side wall being

4 inclined in a ramp-like manner in relation to the top upright-tube end and said second
5 side wall extending to the inner cylindrical lateral surface of the guide bushing
6 approximately perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the column unit.

1 10. The column unit of claim 1, wherein said latching recess of said
2 telescopic tube comprises a latching bead having an annular encircling groove.

1 11. The column unit of claim 10, wherein said latching bead has an
2 asymmetric cross section.

1 12. The column unit of claim 11, wherein said latching bead has a radially
2 inner bead base, a first side wall which is closer to the top upright-tube end, and second
3 a side wall which is further away from the top upright-tube end, said first side wall being
4 inclined in a ramp-like manner in relation to the top upright-tube end and said second
5 side wall extending to the inner cylindrical lateral surface of the guide bushing
6 approximately perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the column unit.

1 13. The column unit of claim 3, wherein at least one of said latching recess
2 and said securing recess is produced by deformation or machining.

1 14. The column unit of claim 1, wherein said latching recess is arranged as a
2 separate component on said telescopic tube.

1 15. The column unit claim 3, wherein said securing element is arranged with
2 radially inwardly directed prestressing in said securing recess of said upright tube.

1 16. The column unit claim 1, wherein said securing element is made of an
2 elastic material.

1 17. The column unit of claim 16, wherein said securing element is made of
2 metal.

1 18. The column unit of claim 1, wherein said securing element comprises a
2 spring element having radially inwardly directed tongues.

1 19. The column unit of claim 1, wherein said securing element is a spring
2 ring.

1 20. The column unit of claim 9, wherein said latching recess of said telescopic
2 tube comprises a latching bead having an annular encircling groove, wherein said latching
3 bead has a radially inner bead base, a first side wall which is closer to the top upright-
4 tube end, and second a side wall which is further away from the top upright-tube end,
5 said first side wall being inclined in a ramp-like manner in relation to the top upright-tube
6 end and said second side wall extending to the inner cylindrical lateral surface of the
7 guide bushing approximately perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the column unit.